

334 EMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND
REFORMER

were too sensible to refrain from according
them some recognition
as soon as you understood how much effort
and sincerity they
embodied. I am leaving London, not,
indeed, as one who has
triumphed, but as a man who is happy at
leaving some sympathetic
feelings behind him. My heart overflows
with gratitude for the
hospitality, so extensive and so refined,
that you have accorded
me. Here I say good-bye, or rather *au
revoir* (loud applause) ;
and I say it, through you, to your
compatriots. I wish, through
you, to assure my brother authors, my
fellow-novelists, that I shall
never forget the truly royal reception that
a mere French writer
has received in this huge city of London,
throbbing with life and
so worthy of inspiring masterpieces. And,
gentlemen, as at the
close of every banquet it is right to
propose a toast, I drink now
alike to the novelists of England and the
novelists of France, to
the good-fellowship of all authors in one
universal republic of
letters. (Loud applause.) "*"

Ernest Vizetelly was present at the Authors'
Club dinner,
and spent half an hour in the crush at the
Guildhall, besides
hearing Zola read his paper on anonymity. But
he abstained
from attending most of the other festivities.
Every morn-
ing at an early hour he arrived at the Savoy
Hotel to
assist the novelist with his correspondence, the
hundreds of
applications for autographs and interviews,
which poured in
upon him; and after the first few days, — as
soon as Zola
had a little leisure, — he took him to see one
and another of
the sights of London. Mr. George Moore also
escorted the

Zolas to Greenwich; Mr. Andrew Chatto gave them a friendly luncheon; Mr. afterwards Sir Campbell Clarke acted as their cicerone at the National Gallery, and Dr, Grarnett at the British Museum Library. There were also some interesting visits to the French Hospital and the

1 From a draft of the French text.